

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a heavy protective coating on a ~~metal or metal alloy valve part~~ part made of a valve metal or valve metal alloy wherein the coating which exhibits high adhesion on said valve part by micro-arc oxidation, the method comprising:
 - placing said part in an electrolyte on a current-conducting holder,
 - producing a ~~working voltage between said part and said electrolyte~~ working voltage to said part through the electrolyte and
 - increasing the voltage until a micro-arc discharge is originated on the surface of the part and
 - wherein the current-conducting holder has a coating selectively formed thereon at the air-electrolyte interface and wherein the coating comprises an electroinsulating material that prevents current reduction to the part as the voltage is increased.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the ~~valve~~ part is made of a metal or metal alloy selected from the group consisting of aluminum, titanium, tantalum and alloys thereof.
- 4 (Previously presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein the electrolyte comprises potassium hydroxide.